

200 million pound-per-year glycerin distillation system, and a 45,000 barrel-per-month methanol distillation tower.

GreenHunter Energy's biodiesel refinery is "feedstock agnostic", meaning that it can use 100 percent animal fats, 100 percent vegetable oils, or any blend of the two interchangeably. By producing biodiesel from multiple feedstocks, including non-edible sources such as tallow and jatropha, GreenHunter offers practical solutions to the ongoing "food versus fuels" debate.

Located along Houston's Ship Channel, GreenHunter's campus has deepwater access and the ability to transport products via barge, rail, and truck. Biodiesel generators at the site will provide enough electricity for GreenHunter to power the campus and sell unneeded renewable power back to the area's power grid.

The addition of GreenHunter Energy's zero emission facility has created many new long-term jobs for Texans and will help move our nation closer to its goal of reducing dependence on foreign crude oil supplies.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 2008, I missed rollcall votes No. 388, Expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month," 389, Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day; and 390, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 388, 389, and 390.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING FAMILIES GAS TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2008

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to introduce the Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act of 2008. Similar to legislation that I introduced in the 109th Congress, this bill will provide greatly needed tax credits to individuals and families so that they can cope with soaring gas prices.

The Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act will provide a \$500 tax credit to individuals and a \$1,000 tax credit to families who make up to \$75,000 or \$150,000 or less, respectively.

This legislation will act as a secondary economic stimulus by providing credits to all individuals and families who were eligible for the economic stimulus rebate recently passed into law by the Democratic Congress. Similar to the 2008 economic stimulus package, the amount of the credit will phase out for individ-

uals making over \$75,000 and families making over \$150,000.

Madam Speaker, working families are paying twice as much as they were paying for a gallon of gas last year while oil companies are reporting record profits. It's literally highway robbery, especially when you consider that beyond housing costs, low- and middle-income households in the United States spend more of their earnings on transportation than anything else. Americans are looking to Congress to help them respond to unwarranted gas price increases. The Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act will give working families the temporary relief that they need during this difficult time.

While it is true that there have been a number of proposals offered by our colleagues to confront current fuel price challenges, this proposal is unique in that it will put necessary resources directly in the hands of consumers. This will be an important stop gap measure as we reprioritize our international fuel prices and confront the corruption and failed policies that have led to our Nation's unsustainable oil addiction.

I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

#### 150 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of an extraordinarily important religious congregation in the city of Newton, which I am proud to represent in this body, and where I have lived for 28 years. Congregation Mishkan Tefila has been an important part of the city of Newton since 1858. At that point, of course, Jewish citizens of the city were a very small number of a much smaller city. Over time, both the city and the Jewish population have grown significantly, and Temple Mishkan Tefila has been an important element in the growth of both. Temple Mishkan Tefila has of course been primarily a place of worship for large numbers of Jewish men, women and young people, and through a series of outstanding rabbis and other leaders, it has performed that essential function superbly. It has also been a forum for community leadership in a number of other ways. Its doors have always been open to the community, both its own members and the community at large, and I have personally benefited from that openness on a number of occasions by being able to participate in forums that the temple has run, which have helped me and others fulfill our duties to relate to our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to salute the members of the Mishkan Tefila Congregation on this 150th Anniversary, and congratulate them on their opportunity both to look back on a very proud history, and to look forward to the promise of continued great service in the years ahead.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Constantino Brumidi, who has been referred to as the Michelangelo of the United States Capitol Building. It is appropriate that Congress honor his incredible contributions to our Nation by awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal.

On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and a Greek father who inspired him with a love of liberty. While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ancestry stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Renaissance and the Baroque which influenced the artwork of the U.S. Capitol.

Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of the United States as soon as he was able, embracing its history, values and ideals. Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi designed and decorated one House and five Senate committee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Senate Reception Room, the Office of the Vice President and most notably, the President's Room, which represents Brumidi's supreme effort "to make beautiful the Capitol" of the United States.

In 1865, Constantino Brumidi completed, in just 11 months, his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of Washington," in the eye of the Capitol dome. In 1871, Constantino Brumidi created the first tribute to an African American in the Capitol when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre. In 1878, Constantino Brumidi, at the age of 72, and in poor health, began work on the Rotunda frieze, which chronicles the history of America. On February 19, 1880, Constantino Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaffold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic accomplishments and devoted to his adopted country, said: "My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty."

Madam Speaker, Constantino Brumidi's life and work exemplifies the lives of millions of immigrants who came to pursue the American dream.

#### CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTEX MODULAR SPACE IN LEWISVILLE, TX

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of Nortex Modular Space of Lewisville, Texas, an exemplary organization in North Texas that is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

Nortex Modular Space is a small business manufacturer with 95 employees based in

Lewisville, and it is the leading manufacturer of durable and energy efficient mobile and modular office and classroom buildings. Jim and Sherry Stewart started Nortex Modular Space in Highland Village in 1998 and have a lease fleet of over 700 mobile office and mobile classroom units.

The company specializes in the sale, lease, rental, repair and renovation of modular and portable buildings, mobile office trailers, portable classroom buildings, re-locatable buildings, modular church buildings, GSA modular buildings, temporary offices, classrooms, as well as medical and special use buildings to government and private industry.

Nortex Modular Space has clients all around the country and even overseas. Customers include the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Secret Service, the City of Dallas, the U.S. Army, the Texas Department of Transportation, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of North Texas.

In 2005, Nortex Modular Space was recognized by DiversityBusiness.com, the nation's leading multicultural internet site, as one of the Top 100 Small Businesses in Texas. Small businesses form the backbone of the American economy, which is the strongest in the world. They account for half of gross domestic product, more than half of American jobs, and three-fourths of new jobs created each year.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Nortex Modular Space and celebrate its 10-year anniversary. This excellent company has served North Texans for 10 good years, and I am certain they will continue their good work for many more years to come.

# HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER CHIEF JOHN E. DOWNEY, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

## HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a truly great member of the U.S. Coast Guard—Master Chief John E. “Jack” Downey—who was throughout his 41 years of service “always ready for the call.”

Master Chief Downey enlisted in the Coast Guard at age 19 from his hometown of Narragansett, Rhode Island, in 1966 and will retire at Station Point Judith in Narragansett on the 20th of this month, having served continuously in the Coast Guard in reserve and active duty status for almost 42 years. Master Chief Downey is retiring as Command Master Chief of Coast Guard District One (Boston, Massachusetts)—one of the nine Command Master Chiefs in the Coast Guard. He has served in this position since September of 2006.

Seaman Recruit Jack Downey reported to the Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, New Jersey, on November 11, 1966, and completed basic training in February 1967. Seaman Apprentice Downey reported to Coast Guard Cutter *Casco* (WHEC 370) on March 8, 1967, and was promoted to Seaman on November 1, 1967.

On December 15, 1967, Seaman Downey reported to Coast Guard Air Station Salem,

Massachusetts where he was a rescue boat crewman for water take-offs and landings—in the days of amphibious fix-wing aircraft.

Seaman Downey transferred to Station Point Judith, Rhode Island, in March 1968, where he served on active duty until 1970, then 8½ years in reserve status, returning to active duty in 1979 and continuing his service at Pt. Judith until 1982. While stationed at Pt. Judith, Downey was promoted to Boatswain's Mate Third Class on January 16, 1969, to Boatswain's Mate Second Class on December 16, 1969, to Boatswain's Mate First Class on April 1, 1972, to Chief Boatswain's Mate on September 1, 1975 and to Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate April 1, 1980.

Senior Chief Downey returned to sea duty on the Coast Guard Cutter *Chase* (WHEC 718) on January 10, 1982.

In addition to service on the CGC *Casco* and CGC *Chase*, Boatswain's Mate Downey had many temporary assignments afloat on CGC *Seneca* (WMEC 906), CGC *Reliance* (WMEC 615), CGC *Neah Bay* (WTGB 105), CGC *Cape George* (WPB 95306) and CGC *Point Hannon* (WPB 82355). Many of these Temporary Assigned Duty assignments were necessitated by the Coast Guard's need to “fix” a leadership issue—a position Jack Downey found himself in on more than one occasion.

On February 21, 1984, Senior Chief Downey returned shore duty at Group/Station Woods Hole, Massachusetts where he was Officer-In-Charge of the Station.

Senior Chief Downey took command, as Officer-In-Charge, of Coast Guard Cutter *Towline* (WYTL 65605), a 65-foot harbor tug/ice-breaker, on June 15, 1987.

On November 1, 1988, Senior Chief Downey transferred to Coast Guard Station Chatham at the elbow of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where he faced one of his most challenging assignments—dealing with an unforgiving and ever changing environment, and a community whose faith in the Coast Guard was at a low-ebb because of a failure of leadership. Senior Chief Downey, whose skills as a Boatswain's Mate are only exceeded by his skills in dealing with people, not only mastered the treacherous Chatham Bar, he won the loving respect of the community.

Senior Chief Downey's time in Chatham had both harrowing and amusing moments. In 1991 Station Chatham acquired a much-needed new surf capable rescue boat—the 28-foot *LeCompte* (CG 280502). In October—shortly after the boat arrived, Cape Cod and New England were slammed by the “No Name” or “Halloween” Storm—later known as the “Perfect Storm.” Downey and his crew secured the boat in the north “jog” of the Chatham Fish Pier in preparation for the onslaught of the storm. Little did they know just how ferocious the gale would be—as the storm intensified and the tide rose to record levels, boats broke loose from their moorings and debris piled up in the jog. One fishing vessel landed up against the *LeCompte*, prompting Downey to comment, “Well that's a \$120,000 fender you've got there.”

In May of 1993, at the Change-of-Command, hundreds came from all over Cape Cod to honor Jack Downey for his dedication and service to the maritime community, and to wish him well in his next assignment across Nantucket Sound at Coast Guard Station Brant Point on Nantucket Island, Massachu-

setts, where he took command, as Officer-In-Charge, on May 17, 1993.

On June 26, 1998, Senior Chief Downey returned “home” to as Officer-In-Charge of Coast Guard Station Point Judith, Rhode Island, and was promoted to Master Chief on September 1, 1998.

While Officer-In-Charge of Station Point Judith Master Chief Downey was called upon by the Group Commander to fill temporary commands concurrent with his responsibilities for his Station. On one occasion, when the Officer-In-Charge of CGC *Hammerhead* (WPB 87302) was not-fit-for-duty due to a leg fracture, Master Chief Downey assumed command of a brand new class of patrol boat with which he was completely unfamiliar, and on another he returned to Station Brant Point on Nantucket to lead the Station while the Officer-In-Charge was assigned to a joint service academy. On both the occasions answered the call—all the while ensuring that Station Point Judith ran smoothly and fulfilled all its responsibilities.

Master Chief Downey left Point Judith and in 2000, and on August 10th became the lead instructor for the Command and Operations School at the Leadership and Development Center located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Master Chief Downey returned to sea duty on July 2, 2005 to take command, for a second time, as Officer-In-Charge, of Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead* (WPB 87302) an 87-foot Patrol Boat operating out of Group Woods Hole with responsibility for law enforcement, fisheries patrols, search and rescue, environmental protection and port, waterways and coastal security.

On August 28, 2006, Master Chief Downey became the Command Master Chief, First Coast Guard District, Boston, Massachusetts—the senior enlisted advisor to Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, Commander, First Coast Guard District, on issues and initiatives pertaining to all Coast Guard members and their families within District One.

On June 20, 2008—after 41-years of continuous service in the United States Coast Guard—Master Chief John E. “Jack” Downey returns to Station Point Judith, Rhode Island where he will—with regret—retire.

Master Chief Downey has received many awards during his distinguished career. Having held the position of Officer-In-Charge of boat force units for more than 17 years of the more than 20 years he served in the boat forces community, he was the first recipient of the Joshua James Keeper Award—the “Ancient Keeper” award—that recognizes longevity in the Coast Guard boat force operations. This award is named in honor of Captain Joshua James—the most celebrated life-saver in U.S. history—who served in the Massachusetts Humane Society and the U.S. Life-Saving Service. James died at the age of 75 after drilling his crew during a northeast gale in March of 1902 shortly after the tragic loss of a life-saving crew off Monomoy Point in Chatham, Massachusetts.

Master Chief Downey's other Coast Guard awards include the Meritorious Service Award with a gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with three gold stars and an operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal with silver star, and the Letter of